United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1555
6 January 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to leave for Europe at end of week for working visits to Paris and Geneva and official visit to the Netherlands; to visit International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia, International Court of Justice and Permanent Court of Arbitration.

+ Special Representative Howe, in New Year Report to Somali people, says instability threatens flow of aid to Somalia; urges Somalis to complete formation of Transitional National Council and selection of interim Central Administration.

+ Secretary-General appoints Wally N'Dow, Gambian national, as Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Habitat effective 15 February.

+ UNPROFOR Force Commander condemns detention yesterday of Canadian peace-keepers by Croatian soldiers in Medak pocket.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave Headquarters at the end of this week for Europe, where he will undertake working visits to Paris and Geneva, and an official visit to the Netherlands, a United Nations spokesman said today. In Paris, the Secretary-General will address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, and meet with the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the French Senate. In Geneva, he will attend an extraordinary informal meeting of his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

The spokesman noted that the next formal round of talks on the situation in the former Yugoslavia will resume in Geneva on 18 January, during the Secretary-General's stay. The Secretary-General will follow developments closely, and will remain in close contact with Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General will then begin an official visit to the Netherlands at the invitation of its Government, during which he will confer

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with Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, and meet both houses of the Dutch Parliament. While in the Hague, the Secretary-General will visit the International Tribunal established to try persons charged with human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia. He will also visit the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which was recently granted observer status at the United Nations by the General Assembly.

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Jonathan Howe, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, has warned that the aid that country needs will only come with stability. In a New Year Report addressed to the Somali people, he said Somalia could not achieve development without reconciliation at the national political level and an end to violence, looting and banditry. The international community had emphasized the need for stability at the Fourth Humanitarian Conference held recently in Addis Ababa; investment capital from the private sector was even more averse to risk, and instability delayed the possibility of generating employment and prosperity.

Admiral Howe stressed that while the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) would continue to help ensure stability in Somalia within its mandate, success depended fundamentally on the Somali people. It was time for them to complete the formation of the Transitional National Council and the selection of the interim Central Administration, a body in which all sectors of the community would participate. He noted that some areas had made progress through the control of clan conflict and the suppression of banditry, aided by the growing Somali Police Force. "Unfortunately," he went on to say, "Somalis continue to kill each other, adding to the national tragedy and creating more sorrow."

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Wally N'Dow, a national of the Gambia, as Assistant Secretary-General, effective 15 February, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. N'Dow will act as Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). He is currently serving as Resident Coordinator in Tanzania.

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General Jean Cot, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), has condemned an incident yesterday in which Croatian soldiers disarmed and detained four Canadian peace-keepers on a routine patrol in the Medak pocket in Sector South. The peace-keepers, who had already obtained routine clearance to cross Croatian lines, were released after negotiations between the patrol commander and the local Croatian commander.

General Cot demanded a thorough inquiry by the Croatian authorities into the incident, which he described as "outrageous", and sought assurances that it would not be repeated.

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1556
7 January 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, urges Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front to cooperate in peace process, to comply with Arusha Agreement, and to set up transitional government as soon as possible.

+ Committee on the Rights of the Child to hold fifth meeting in Geneva from 10 to 28 January; to discuss protection of children's rights in Mexico, Namibia, Colombia, Romania, Pakistan and Belarus.

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The Security Council last night strongly urged the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front to cooperate fully in furthering the peace process, to comply fully with the Arusha Peace Agreement, and to establish a broad-based transitional government as soon as possible. The Council took that action in the context of its review of the progress of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). In adopting resolution 893 (1994) unanimously, the Council reaffirmed its approval of the early deployment of the second battalion to the demilitarized zone as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 30 December 1993.

The Council stressed that continued support for UNAMIR would depend on full and prompt implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement, which was concluded last August. It reiterated its request that the Secretary-General continue to monitor the Mission's size and cost to seek economies. The Council also commended the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations which had provided humanitarian and other aid to Rwanda and urged others to do likewise. It particularly commended the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in providing diplomatic, political, humanitarian and other support.

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For information media--not an official record

Press Release DH/1556
7 January 1994

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The promotion and protection of children's rights in Mexico, Namibia, Colombia, Romania, Pakistan and Belarus will be the focus of discussion when the Committee on the Rights of the Child meets for the fifth time in Geneva from Monday, 10 to 28 January.

The Committee of 10 independent experts is charged with monitoring the progress of States in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition to considering the reports submitted by the six countries, during this session the Committee is also expected to consider various follow-up measures to the one-day general discussion it held last October on the protection of children against economic exploitation. Other agenda items include issues relating to information gathering and indicators of progress made in realizing economic, social and cultural rights, and cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the first instrument to give children's rights the force of international law, was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989, 30 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Work on drafting the Convention began in 1979 -- the International Year of the Child -- at the Commission on Human Rights. Unlike the Declaration, the Convention makes States which accept it legally accountable for their actions towards children.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1557
10 January 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, reiterates its concern for Haitian people in ongoing crisis and its determination to lessen impact on vulnerable groups; welcomes imminent arrival of fuel shipment in Haiti and warns against interference with humanitarian deliveries.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, demands immediate end to attacks against Sarajevo; says it is ready to consider further measures to ensure that all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina abide by their commitments.

+ Secretary-General, in Paris, meets with special envoy of Zairian President; presents new initiative to reinforce Zaire's unity and to stabilize situation there; visits French National Assembly and addresses Commission of Foreign Affairs.

+ Success of UNOSOM II is threatened by inadequate human and financial resources, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council; recommends that operation deploy 16,000 troops to protect ports, convoys and refugees, retain self-defence capability, and rely on Somali cooperation to achieve disarmament.

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The Security Council today reiterated its deep concern for the plight of the Haitian people and reaffirmed its determination to minimize the impact of the ongoing crisis on the most vulnerable groups in Haiti. In a statement read out on by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council welcomed the imminent arrival in Haiti of a fuel shipment approved by the Committee established by resolution 841 (1993). It also welcomed the role of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in the delivery of fuel for humanitarian purposes.

The Council said it attached great importance to humanitarian assistance in Haiti. It stressed that it would hold responsible any authorities or individuals who interfered with the delivery of assistance under the aegis of PAHO, or who failed in their responsibility to ensure that deliveries benefits

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the intended recipients. The Council said it would also hold responsible anyone who endangered the security and safety of personnel involved in such assistance.

The Council reaffirmed its determination to ensure the return to constitutional legality in Haiti. It stressed that the process defined by the Governors Island Agreement, which provided, inter alia, for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was the only viable framework for the country's emergence from the crisis and for the establishment of a State under the rule of law.

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The Security Council has demanded an immediate end to attacks against Sarajevo, which have resulted in a large number of civilian casualties, disrupted essential services, and aggravated an already severe humanitarian situation. In a statement read out on Friday night by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council said it was ready to consider further measures to ensure that all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina abide by their commitments.

The Council condemned any hostilities in United Nations-designated "safe areas", particularly the recent relentless bombardment by Bosnian Serb forces of Sarajevo. Strongly deploring the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian relief convoys by any party, the Council reiterated its demand for unimpeded access for humanitarian relief assistance. It also deplored the failure of the parties to honour their agreement to implement the cease-fire, condemned the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and held the perpetrators personally responsible.

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to implement all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 836 (1993), by which it had authorized the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to use force to protect Sarajevo and five towns previously declared "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council also condemned recent attacks against personnel of the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations and reiterated its demand that all parties ensure their safety and security.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on the first leg of his visit to Europe, met today in Paris with Mokolo Wa Mpombo, special envoy of President Marechal Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. He gave the special envoy a message addressed to President Mobutu in which he presented a new initiative to reinforce Zaire's national unity and to prevent a further deterioration of the situation there. The Secretary-General was accompanied by Lakhdar Brahimi, his Special Envoy for Zaire.

According to a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General then went to the French National Assembly where he had a tête-à-tête with Assembly President Philippe Seguin and attended a luncheon in his honour hosted by the

President of the Assembly's Commission of Foreign Affairs, Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The Secretary-General later addressed the Commission.

Yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with the Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chretien, who was accompanied by his Foreign Minister and Chief of Staff. On Saturday, the first day of his visit, the Secretary-General had a half-hour meeting with the President of France, François Mitterand, at the Elysee Palace.

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It is doubtful whether the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will have the required level of resources to successfully continue its current mandate after 31 March, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 6 January, he noted that UNOSOM II's military strength would fall to 19,700 after that date, and that operations were threatened by financial shortfalls.

The Secretary-General said that only a comprehensive mandate would allow UNOSOM II to create a secure environment and to accelerate efforts to help the Somali people rebuild their country. However, it would be impossible to provide it with an extra brigade and a capacity for coercive disarmament -- the option which he preferred. He therefore recommended a second option, whereby UNOSOM II would not use coercive methods but would rely on the cooperation of the Somali people. It would deploy some 16,000 troops to protect ports, convoys and refugees and would retain some capability to defend its personnel.

However, the Secretary-General said he was not confident that UNOSOM II would have adequate resources, or that Somali leaders would have advanced enough towards reconciliation, for even the second option. He cited the continued negative attitude of the Somali National Alliance, reports of an arms build-up by all factions, and renewed inter-clan fighting and banditry. The Secretary-General stressed that UNOSOM II needed the cooperation of the Somali parties and warned of a danger of civil war without reconciliation and the re-establishment of the institutions of law and order. He went on to say that if the Somalis succeeded in establishing a working Transitional National Council soon it would be a "significant development" and might have a bearing on UNOSOM II's mandate.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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11 January 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, continuing Paris visit, welcomes final communique from NATO Summit in Brussels, saying it will strengthen United Nations role in promoting peace; to begin Geneva visit tomorrow.

+ Government of Guatemala and opposition URNG, after four-day meeting in Mexico City, sign framework agreement for resuming peace negotiations suspended last May; agreement offers new mechanisms to promote peace process.

+ Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Public Policy urges Member States to contribute to Trust Fund for commemoration of fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

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Continuing his visit to Paris, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with French Defence Minister François Leotard, who was accompanied by Admiral Jacques Lanxade, Army Chief of Staff. According to a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the French Government for its important contribution to United Nations peace-keeping operations. He also welcomed the political will expressed in the final communique of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit, held in Brussels this week, saying it would strengthen the United Nations role in favour of peace.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to address a special session of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee this afternoon, the spokesman said. He was expected to have meetings later with Senate President Rene Monory, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The Secretary-General will begin a working visit to Geneva tomorrow, where he will meet with his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

* * *

The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) yesterday signed a framework agreement for resuming the

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peace negotiations suspended last May, according to a United Nations spokesman. The signing came at the end of a four-day meeting in Mexico City held under the auspices of the Secretary-General. The framework agreement offers several new mechanisms to promote the peace process, while building on agreements previously reached by the parties.

Regarding the role of the United Nations, the parties asked the Secretary-General to appoint a moderator who will propose initiatives to facilitate the signing of a peace agreement. The parties also decided to ask the Organization to verify all agreements reached during their negotiations. They agreed to meet during the latter half of February to discuss an agreement on human rights and the timetable for considering the negotiation agenda.

* * *

Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, today urged Member States to consider contributing to the Trust Fund for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Addressing the Preparatory Committee for the anniversary, she said that while there had been an encouraging response from the corporate community, the response from countries had been somewhat disappointing. Anything representatives could do to lend some urgency to the planning process would be greatly appreciated.

The Special Adviser also called on representatives to ask their national committees to convey details of their major events to the United Nations, so that the master calendar for the year might be complete and in order to foster collaborative projects. She stressed the importance of global coverage of the commemoration and reviewed the current status of preparations for the event.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1559
12 January 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, meets with top aides to discuss situation in former Yugoslavia and recent expression of support from NATO; also meets with Advisory Board on Disarmament, "to maintain momentum of new and innovative ideas" on crisis prevention and disarmament.

+ Secretary-General deplores continued large-scale fighting in Afghanistan; calls for immediate end to violence, recalling peace agreements concluded by Afghan leaders; welcomes renewed support for sending special mission to Afghanistan when conditions permit.

+ Meeting of States parties to International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination suspended after objections to participation of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ Force Commander of UNOSOM II, Lieutenant General Cevik Bir, leaving post as of 15 February; Secretary-General informs Security Council of intention to appoint Lieutenant General Aboo Samah Bin Aboo Bakar (Malaysia) to succeed him.

* * *

In Geneva this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, and with Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. They discussed the former Yugoslavia and the declaration in that regard made by the Heads of State and Government participating in the summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), held earlier this week in Brussels. The Secretary-General, in a statement issued yesterday, had welcomed the summit participants' expression of support for United Nations efforts to secure a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Later this morning the Secretary-General addressed an extraordinary meeting of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which he had called in order to receive advice as the Organization explores ways to assist positive developments in arms control and disarmament. He stressed that he wanted to maintain the momentum of new and innovative ideas flowing from his two major

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reports in 1992, "An Agenda for Peace" and "New Dimensions of Arms Regulations and Disarmament in the Post-Cold War Era". There was a new awareness that preventing was better than curing international conflict, he said, and techniques of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping must all be integrated into the disarmament effort.

* * *

Following consultations with the representatives of Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and the United States, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored the continued large-scale fighting in Afghanistan and the resulting suffering of innocent civilians. He called for an immediate end to the violence, stressing that it contradicted agreements concluded by Afghan leaders and undermined regional stability.

The Secretary-General stressed the need for humanitarian assistance for the victims of the fighting which, he said, made reconstruction and rehabilitation activities almost impossible in affected areas. He recalled the recent General Assembly resolution (48/208) calling on him to dispatch a special mission to assist the peace process in Afghanistan, including the creation of a political structure acceptable to the Afghan people. Mr. Boutros-Ghali welcomed the renewed support of the Governments he had consulted for the timely dispatch of the special mission. He said it it would be sent as soon as the current fighting was brought under control and conditions would allow it to carry out its mandate effectively.

* * *

A meeting at Headquarters of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was suspended this morning after objections to the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Following an opening statement by Carl-August Fleischauer, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, some representatives questioned the legality and political viability of the Federal Republic's participation, charging that the country had violated the very principles which the Convention sought to uphold.

Other representatives questioned the legality of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's automatic succession to the Convention given the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia. Citing General Assembly resolution 47/1, which barred the Federal Republic from participating in its work, representatives stressed that the country's participation in the meeting would not prejudice a future decision on the matter. At the request of the representative of Pakistan, the meeting was suspended to allow for informal consultations on the issue.

* * *

The Force Commander of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), Lieutenant General Cevik Bir, will be relinquishing his post as of 15 February. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 6 January, the Secretary-General announced the change and stated his intention, subject to the approval of the Council, to appoint Lieutenant General Aboo Samah Bin Aboo Bakar (Malaysia), to succeed General Bir.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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13 January 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNOMSA mandate should be expanded to included observation of South Africa's elections next April, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council; United Nations would provide some 1,800 observers, bringing number of foreign observers to over 5,000.

+ Chairman of Special Committee against Apartheid warns that violence, political intolerance and long unfulfilled expectations pose great danger to peace process in South Africa.

+ Representatives of Croat and Serb authorities in Croatia agree to extension of Christmas Truce Agreement; also agree to further confidence-building measures and negotiations on General Cease-Fire Agreement.

+ Donor countries to meet in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25 and 26 January to discuss speedy rehabilitation of selected regions in Somalia where peace and stability prevail.

* * *

The mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) should be expanded to included observation of next April's elections, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report on South Africa dated 10 January, he said UNOMSA would have a significant role not only in assessing the freedom and fairness of the elections, but in monitoring each stage of the process. He stressed that the Mission, based on its long-term activities, would be "uniquely capable" of evaluating the extent to which the elections truly reflected the will of the South African people.

The Secretary-General said UNOMSA would observe the actions of the Independent Electoral Commission and the freedom of organization and expression during the electoral campaign. It would monitor the compliance of the security forces with relevant laws and verify that voting was free of intimidation and secret and that the vote count was secure. UNOMSA would also coordinate the activities of observers from international organizations and foreign Governments.

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The United Nations would provide some 1,800 observers, according to the report. Along with observers from the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union, the Commonwealth and individual States, they would form a core group of almost 3,000 observers. The total number of international observers, including those representing foreign non-governmental organizations and other groups, would probably exceed 5,000. Mobile teams of observers would cover polling stations in areas with low expectations of violence, while there would be an observer posted in each polling station in areas with a history of violence.

* * *

Violence, political intolerance and long unfulfilled expectations still posed great danger to the peace process in South Africa, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), said this morning at the Committee's first meeting of 1994.

Mr. Gambari, re-elected for another one-year term as Chairman, warned that orchestrated political violence aimed at frustrating the peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy could escalate, making a successful outcome of the elections impossible. He was concerned at the continuing refusal by the Conservative Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party to participate in the multi-party negotiations and perhaps in the April elections. He appealed to those parties to reconsider their decisions in the interests of the entire country.

* * *

Representatives of the Croat and Serb authorities in Croatia today agreed to an extension of their Christmas Truce Agreement, at a meeting mediated by the Major General MacInnis, the Acting Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The agreement also includes provision for further confidence-building measures and a continuation of the negotiations on the General Cease-Fire Agreement between the two sides.

Since the Christmas Truce came into effect shortly before Christmas, the number of cease-fire violations in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) has declined to the lowest level since the establishment of the UNPAs. According to a United Nations spokesman, both the Croat and Serb sides at today's meeting confirmed their desire to bring the number of violations down to zero. Further discussions on the issues involved are to held under the auspices of UNPROFOR Force Commander, General Jean Cot.

Meanwhile, there was fierce fighting in several locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina this week, and the situation in Sarajevo was described by UNPROFOR as "highly unstable." Only 16 humanitarian flights have reached the city as a result of Serb shelling of the airport, and five French soldiers were wounded there earlier in the week.

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Representatives of donor countries will meet in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25 and 26 January to consider a quick start to the rehabilitation of selected Somali regions which meet conditions set out at last month's Fourth Humanitarian Conference on Somalia, according to a United Nations spokesman. A declaration adopted at the Conference said that aid would be directed to areas where there was peace and stability.

As part of the preparatory work for the upcoming meeting, Robin Kinloch, Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), yesterday chaired the second of a series of meetings between donors, UNOSOM II, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations in Nairobi. The meetings are aimed at developing a consensus regarding the donor approach to the Humanitarian Division's plan of action for Somalia.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1561
14 January 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, approving proposals in Secretary-General's report on South Africa, decides to expand UNOMSA mandate to include observation of elections next April; urges all South African parties to participate in elections and to take measures to end violence and intimidation.

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, tells Governing Council of Compensation Commission reviewing claims following Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that Commission reflects vitality of international law and growing role of United Nations; Secretary-General to meet with President of Syria tomorrow.

+ In response to ongoing crisis in Burundi, World Food Programme to extend for six months emergency aid for nearly 1 million refugees and internally displaced people affected by recent ethnic conflict.

+ Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women to hold 13th session at Headquarters from 17 January to 4 February; in addition to reports of States parties, agenda includes situation of women in former Yugoslavia and 1995 World Conference on Women.

+ United Nations body negotiating international convention to combat desertification begins third substantive session at Headquarters on Monday; in final form, convention is expected to be adopted and opened for signature in June.

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The Security Council today decided to expand the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) to include observation of the elections to be held in that country on 27 April. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 894 (1994), by which it agreed to the Secretary-General's proposals regarding UNOMSA's role in the elections.

In a report on South Africa dated 10 January, the Secretary-General proposed that the United Nations provide some 1,800 observers to assess the freedom and fairness of the elections and to monitor each stage of the

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election process. Based on its long-term activities, UNOMSA would be "uniquely capable" of evaluating the extent to which the elections truly reflected the will of the South African people, he said. Along with observers from the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union, the Commonwealth and individual States, the United Nations observers would form a core group almost 3,000 strong.

The Security Council urged all parties in South Africa, including those which did not participate fully in the multi-party talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, to adhere to democratic principles and to take part in the elections. The Council called on all parties to take measures to end the violence and intimidation, and said it expected that anyone who sought to disrupt the elections would be held accountable for such actions. It also called on all parties to respect the safety of the international observers and to facilitate the carrying out of their mandate.

The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to set up a special Trust Fund to finance the participation of additional observers from Africa and other developing countries and urged States to contribute to it. It also decided to remain seized of the matter until a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa was established.

* * *

Continuing his visit to Geneva, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with Carlos Alzamora, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Compensation Commission. The Commission was established by the Security Council to review compensation claims resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. He then attended a special meeting of the Commission's Governing Council.

In an address to the Governing Council, the Secretary-General said that the creation of the Commission showed the vitality of international law. It also reflected the expanding role of the United Nations in international relations, and the innovative way in which the Organization had faced up to its new responsibilities. The Commission would have to deal with a huge number of claims -- more than 2.3 million had been submitted to date -- but would be ready to act on the first awards by next April. That undertaking would bring relief to many suffering victims, and would also highlight the international community's condemnation of aggression, and its rejection of violence as a means of resolving disputes.

Also today, the Secretary-General discussed the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in Switzerland with a delegation representing Switzerland and the canton of Geneva. He was also due to meet with Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and with Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Tomorrow, the Secretary-General is expected to meet with Hafez Al-Asad, President of Syria.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced it will extend for six months its regional emergency relief operation for nearly 1 million refugees and internally displaced people affected by the recent conflict in Burundi. The estimated cost of the latest tranche of food aid is $45.4 million, including the funds to transport the food to the affected people. WFP said there was little hope that the crisis would be defused and the refugees enabled to go home in the foreseeable future.

Following the abortive military coup in Burundi on 21 October 1993, tribal conflict erupted between the minority Tutsi and majority Hutu tribes in much of the country, particularly in the rural areas. Huge numbers of people were forced to flee their homes in search of safe havens. About 250,000 people displaced by the fighting are living in schools, churches and administrative or social centres or in makeshift camps in isolated regions of the country.

By the end of 1993, there were an estimated 375,000 Burundese refugees in Rwanda, with 300,000 in Tanzania, and from 39,000 to 50,000 in Zaire. A census is now under way to determine the exact number of refugees in need of relief assistance.

* * *

The situation of women in the former Yugoslavia will be among the issues to be discussed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women when it holds its thirteenth session at Headquarters from 17 January to 4 February. In accordance with its mandate, the Committee will also discuss the measures taken by 13 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to ensure equal participation of women in their countries' political, economic and cultural life.

The 23-member expert Committee is the monitoring body for the implementation of the 1979 Convention. States parties are required to submit an initial report within one year of accession to the Convention and periodic reports at least every four years. At this session the Committee will be considering the initial reports of Guyana, Madagascar, Libya and the Netherlands, and both the initial and periodic reports of Zambia and Guatemala. The Committee will also consider, among other issues, its contribution to the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

* * *

The United Nations body negotiating an international convention to combat desertification will hold its third substantive session at Headquarters from 17 to 28 January. The Negotiating Committee will focus its consideration on a 42-article draft text for the final legally binding convention, which is expected to be adopted and opened for signature in June.

The spread of desert conditions, resulting from such factors as climate variation and human activity, now affects about one-sixth of the world's

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population and a quarter of the earth's total land area. In attempting to create consensus on how to deal with the problem, the negotiators still have a number of questions to settle. These include proposals relating to financial mechanisms to help combat desertification; the content of national and regional action programmes; the establishment of a scientific and technological council; the establishment of an evaluation and monitoring centre; and approaches to dispute prevention and settlement.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1562
17 January 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, meets with OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina; discusses report on Srebrenica and Tuzla with Special Representative for former Yugoslavia; marks Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in United States; met with President of Syria on Saturday.

+ Secretary-General, welcoming agreement reached by Somali subclans after Hirab Peace Conference, instructs UNOSOM II to release eight SNA detainees; also lifts restrictions on movements of two Somali leaders, citing hope for new momentum in peace process.

+ Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women begins its three-week annual session at Headquarters; Secretary-General of 1995 World Conference on Women stresses goal of universal ratification for women's rights Convention by 1995.

+ Following second round of talks on Abkhazia between Georgian and Abkhaz sides, Georgia asks Security Council to consider sending United Nations peace-keeping forces to region; both parties also seek international commission to assist in economic recovery of Abkhazia.

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Continuing his visit to Geneva, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Group consists of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey. The Secretary-General, who was accompanied by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding and senior political adviser Chinmaya Gharekhan, expressed grave concern at the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and at the human tragedy faced by the population there. The OIC representatives gave assurances that they would help him in concrete ways.

Also today, the Secretary-General met with Yasushi Akashi, his Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, who presented a report on the situation regarding Srebrenica and Tuzla airport. They were expected to discuss the report further this afternoon at a meeting to be attended by,

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For information media--not an official record

among others, Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In a message marking the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in the United States today, the Secretary-General described the civil rights campaigner as an example of courage in the cause of justice, and as an inspiration to all people struggling for freedom and equality.

On Saturday, the Secretary-General met with Syrian President Hafez El-Assad in Geneva. The meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, focused on rleations between the United Nations and Syria and on the Middle East peace process. The Secretary-General said that the Organization was willing to play a role in the ongoing peace talks if the parties so desired, while the President stressed his faith in the principles of the United Nations Charter and his support for the Secretary-General.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the agreement reached yesterday in Mogadishu between the Habr Cedir and Abgal subclans. According to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), the agreement emerged from the four-day Hirab Peace Conference, held under the auspices of the Imam of Hirab, which brought together 176 delegates, including chiefs, community leaders, religious leaders, politicians, scholars and representatives of the Hirab subclans.

The Secretary-General today gave instructions to his Special Representative for Somalia to release the remaining eight detainees connected with the Somali National Alliance who had been held by UNOSOM II following attacks on its personnel. According to a United Nations spokeswoman, he ordered their release in view of Hirab peace agreement, and the written and oral report he had received in Geneva today from Enoch Dumbutshena, the independent jurist and former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, who was asked to review the cases of detainees. Mr. Boutros-Ghali also ordered the lifting of restrictions on the movements of Omar Jess and General Orsi Morgan.

He said he hoped that these gestures would reinforce the implementation of peace in Somalia and give a new momentum to the process of national reconciliation.

* * *

Addressing the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as it began its three-week annual session at Headquarters this morning, Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, stressed the goal of universal ratification for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. But ways and means were needed to address the large number of reservations to it. She asked the Committee to review those reservations which ran contrary to the objective of the Convention or which were incompatible with international treaty law.

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Mrs. Mongella pointed out that as of October 1993, 130 States parties had ratified and acceded to the Convention. All the States in Latin America and the Caribbean had become party to the it, making that the first region in the world to have total ratification. If, by the time Conference on Women was held in Beijing in 1995, the Convention had become the first human rights instrument to achieve universal ratification, she said, it would be a great affirmation of the world's commitment to its principles.

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Following the second round of negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in the conflict concerning Abkhazia, Georgia has requested that a meeting of the Security Council be convened as soon as possible to consider dispatching United Nations peace-keeping forces to the region. According to a joint communiqué on the meeting, conveyed to the Council by Georgia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and dated 14 January, the parties also expressed interest in the establishment of an international commission to assist in the economic recovery of Abkhazia.

The talks were held in Geneva, from 11 to 13 January, under the aegis of the United Nations, with the facilitation of the Russian Federation and participation by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The communiqué noted that while uncontrolled armed groups were continuing to carry out hostilities in certain areas, most provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding the parties signed last December were being implemented. That had included an "all-for-all" exchange of prisoners. The parties reaffirmed their commitment not to use force or the threat of force against each other and that their primary objective was a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict.
(S/1994/32)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1563
18 January 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General concludes visit to Geneva with meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister, and senior United Nations officials involved in Bosnian issue; departs for official visit to the Netherlands.

+ Samir Sanbar appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, having served as Officer-in-Charge of DPI since November.

+ Bosnian leaders begin fresh round of peace talks in Geneva; Co-Chairmen Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen voice pessimism about outcome, but stress importance of maintaining communication.

+ States parties to International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in vote yesterday, reject participation by Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in current session.

+ FAO appeals for international assistance to prevent spread of locust infestation in north-west Africa; warns that 1994 agricultural production is threatened by re-emerging swarms.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this morning in Geneva with the Egyptian Minister of Education, Hussein Kamel Bahaa Eldin, and then with the Former Dean of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Jacques Freymond. He later met with senior United Nations officials to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They included Yasushi Akashi, his Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Marrack Goulding, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chinmaya Gharekhan, his senior political advisor, and Nicholas Morris, Special Envoy for the former Yugoslavia for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali then met with Ambassador Edouard Brunner, his Special Representative for Georgia. Yesterday, Georgia had requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider sending a peace-keeping force to the region, as well as establishing an international commission for the purpose of assisting in the economic reconstruction of Abkhazia.

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For information media--not an official record

Early in the evening the Secretary-General left Geneva for The Hague for an official visit to the Netherlands. While there, he is expected to confer with Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, and to meet with both Houses of the Dutch Parliament. Also scheduled are visits to the International War Crimes Tribunal, the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Samir Sanbar as Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information as of today. Mr. Sanbar had been serving as Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Public Information (DPI) since last November.

Mr. Sanbar served last year as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in charge of the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER). He was Director of the United Nations Information Centres Division from 1987 to 1993, and Chief of the United Nations Centres Services from 1982 to 1987. He has worked with the Organization since 1964.

* * *

The political leaders of the warring factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Presidents of Croatia and Serbia, began another round of peace talks in Geneva today. The talks are being held under the aegis of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen. Participants are discussing various plans for the division of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the most recent of which would give one third of the country's territory to the mainly Muslim Bosnian Republic, half to Bosnian Serbs and the remainder to Bosnian Croats.

Mr. Stoltenberg and Lord Owen were not optimistic after today's meetings, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, the Co-Chairmen felt that it was important that the parties stay in touch with each other and that therefore the talks were necessary.

* * *

States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination decided yesterday not to allow the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to participate in their current session at Headquarters. That proposal, made by Bosnia and Herzegovina, was approved by a vote of 69 in favour to 2 against [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Russian Federation], with 25 abstentions.

Speaking before the vote, the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia said he strongly objected to the challenge by his country's participation in the meeting, calling the action legally unfounded and politically motivated. The denial of the Federal Republic's legitimate right

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to participate would imply the suspension of its obligations arising from the Convention. Thus, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could not ask it to undertake any obligation under the Convention or send any fact-finding missions to its territory. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the Committee's decision, saying that Serbia and Montenegro had not taken measures to give itself any legal standing. He said that allowing the Belgrade regime to participate in the work of the United Nations did "nothing less than to welcome fascism into our chambers".

* * *

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has appealed for international assistance to prevent the disastrous spread of locust infestation in north-west Africa. Dozens of swarms of desert locusts have appeared in Mauritania, Senegal and southern Morocco, and at current rates of reproduction the locusts will threaten this year's agricultural production in north and west Africa, according to FAO.

Energetic and urgent action by the donor community was needed to prevent the threat from worsening, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf told a meeting at FAO headquarters in Rome attended by representatives from the countries affected, donor countries, the European Economic Community (EEC) and other international institutions. He said it would take a commitment of about $4.5 million by the end of April to maintain the necessary level of locust surveillance and combat operations in north-west Africa. The FAO's appeal last July received a favourable response, but donors were asked then to review their actual assistance programmes and to consider pledging additional aid.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1564
19 January 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ On first day of official visit to the Netherlands, Secretary-General delivers public address on international law, attended by Prince of Orange and leaders of Dutch Government and international legal bodies.

+ Use of air power by UNPROFOR to attain military objectives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as proposed at NATO summit last week, would require more military assets than those now available, Secretary-General tells Security Council; Special Representative drawing up detailed plans for such military operations.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia say that two days of talks between warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina have ended without any new agreements; parties agree to resume talks on 10 February.

+ Most Member States favour enlargement of Security Council, General Assembly President says in informal paper as Working Group on Council composition holds first meeting.

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On the first day of his official visit to the Netherlands, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today delivered a public address on the subject of international law. It was attended by the Prince of Orange, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and the President and members of the International Court of Justice and the President and members of the International Tribunal for Crimes in the former Yugoslavia, as well as members of the diplomatic corps and other leading Dutch and international figures.

This evening, the Secretary-General was scheduled to attend a working dinner hosted by Prime Minister and the members of his Cabinet.

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The use of air power by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina to attain recently proposed objectives would require

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For information media—not an official record

military assets in excess of what is now available to the Force there, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has told the Security Council. He gave that assessment in a letter to the Council dated 18 January (S/1994/50), in response to a declaration issued last week by the Heads of State and Government attending a meeting of the North Atlantic Council.

In that declaration, the participants affirmed their readiness, under the authority of the Security Council, "to use air strikes to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo, the designated safe areas and other threatened areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina". They also urged the UNPROFOR authorities to to draw up plans to permit the currently blocked rotation of the UNPROFOR contingent stationed in Srebrenica, and the opening of the Tuzla airfield for humanitarian purposes.

The Secretary-General said the new proposal implied that UNPROFOR could launch offensive action against Bosnian Serb elements which obstructed -- or threatened to obstruct -- its military operations. UNPROFOR had previously only been mandated to use air support in defence of United Nations personnel. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had drawn up an urgent preparatory study on the proposal and had now been asked to prepare detailed plans for military operations, with air power used as required, to achieve those objectives. He was asked to do that in close coordination with the Southern Command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had been sent to Brussels to brief the Secretary-General of NATO on the matter.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, announced in Geneva this evening that two days of talks between the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina had ended without any new agreement being reached. Lord Owen said the parties had agreed to return to Geneva on 10 February for further talks, but he said it had been impossible to break the deadlock between them. He predicted that they would continue fighting and said he feared the situation would only have gotten worse by the time the next round of talks were convened.

Lord Owen said there had been discussion, but no agreement, on a proposal that territorial disputes be referred to an arbitration commission which would be appointed by the International Court of Justice. The parties had agreed to install a hot line and to exchange personnel, in the hopes that improved communications could help to avoid potential catastrophies. Lord Owen said too that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, had been promised by the delegates to the talks that more land convoys would be allowed to get through to Tuzla, starting immediately.

* * *

Virtually all Member States of the United Nations favour an increase in the membership of the Security Council, with no voices to the contrary, according to an informal paper issued by General Assembly President Samuel R.

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Insanally (Guyana). The paper was provided to the Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, which held its first meeting at Headquarters today. It contained an overview of the positions of Member States on the question, based on almost 100 written replies submitted at the invitation of the Secretary-General and on the views expressed by delegations during the Assembly's 48th session.

According to the informal paper, many States want the Security Council to reflect the radical changes in the world and the increase in the Organization's overall Membership, in order to make it more representative and democratic. However, views on the criteria for revising the Council's composition varied widely. Most States envisaged the total number of seats being increased from 15 to between 19 and 25, although some favoured 31. Many States stipulated, however, that an increase in the membership should not diminish the Council's efficiency.

Most States want to retain the existing categories of permanent and non-permanent Council members, although new categories of membership were also suggested. Those included new permanent seats without the power of veto; rotating permanent seats, with or without the veto; and semi-permanent seats or extended membership. Some States envisaged an increase of at least one, and as much as seven, in the number of permanent members. However, others felt that there should be no additional permanent seats at all. Diverse factors were cited regarding the criteria for Council membership, including the size of peace-keeping and financial contributions, the size of population and territory, economic potential, regional importance, geopolitical situation and military capability.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1565
20 January 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in address to International Court of Justice in The Hague, says many disputes could be settled through reliance on Court and on international law.

+ General Assembly President begins 10-day official visit to Italy, Switzerland and Zimbabwe; to launch Olympic Games Truce in Lausanne on Monday.

+ Security Council President, in letter to Secretary-General, warns that delays in implementing Cotonou Peace Agreement could endanger support for United Nations efforts in Liberia.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cyprus to visit Nicosia, Athens and Ankara from 22 to 29 January; to hold talks on package of confidence-building measures for Varosha/Nicosia International Airport

+ UNHCR says tens of thousands of Bosnian civilians are not receiving humanitarian aid despite assurances of access by warring parties; more are at risk because of bureaucratic and military obstacles, continued fighting, winter weather and deteriorating roads.

+ WHO report says one third of world's children under five are malnourished and underweight; stresses importance of breast-feeding, linking economic development and nutritional well-being.

* * *

Continuing his stay in the Netherlands, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today paid his first visit to the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. He said in an address that he would do everything he could to promote the role of the Court and of international law, noting that many international disputes could be settled through them. He also recalled that his report "An Agenda for Peace" had stressed that greater reliance on the Court would be an important contribution to United Nations peace-keeping.

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For information media--not an official record

Also today, the Secretary-General attended a meeting with Parliamentarians for Global Action at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was due to meet this evening with Ramon Escovar-Salon, Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia, and to attend an official dinner offered in his honour by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General told a joint meeting of the Standing Committees for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Cooperation of the Dutch Parliament that the promotion of democracy and human rights was a crucial mainstay of international peace and security. He also met with the Secretary-General of the Western European Union (WEU), Willem van Eekelen, and discussed cooperation between the United Nations and the WEU. He later attended a working dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Ruud Lubbers, during which he thanked the Dutch Government for its important contribution to peace-keeping operations.

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The President of the General Assembly, S.R. Insanally (Guyana), left New York yesterday for a 10-day official visit to Italy, Switzerland and Zimbabwe. He was to be received in Rome today by Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, and would then meet with Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta. Tomorrow, Mr. Insanally will be received at the Vatican, where he will meet with Pope John Paul II.

On Saturday, the Assembly President will leave for Lausanne, Switzerland, where he will launch the Olympic Truce for next month's Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, at a special ceremony on Monday. Observance of the Truce, which calls for a universal halt to hostilities seven days before the start of the Olympic Games and ends on the seventh day after the close of the Games, was called for by the General Assembly last October. Mr. Insanally yesterday appealed to all States to observe the Truce, and to strive for lasting peace whether or not they were parties to a confrontation.

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Delays in implementing the Cotonou Peace Agreement could endanger international support for United Nations efforts in Liberia, according to the President of the Security Council. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 18 January, he said Council members were concerned that the transitional government had not yet been installed, disarmament had not begun, and efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to all parts of the country had met with difficulties.

The Council President welcomed the report of the Secretary-General's Special Representative that the deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) was almost complete. However, he warned that continued support for UNOMIL would depend on full and prompt implementation of the Cotonou Agreement. Council members shared the Secretary-General's expectation that elections should take place during the first half of this

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year. They also hoped that enough progress would be made in the peace process that the Secretary-General could recommend a precise timetable for the elections when he submitted his next report on the situation before 16 February.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cyprus, Joe Clark, is to visit Nicosia, Athens and Ankara from 22 to 29 January, a United Nations spokesman said today. In letters last month to the leaders of the two Cypriot communities and the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey, the Secretary-General indicated that Mr. Clark had been asked to return to the region for talks on the Varosha/Nicosia International Airport package of confidence-building measures.

In his letters, dated 17 December, the Secretary-General also expressed the view that it should be possible for the leaders of the two communities to accept in principle the package on the understanding that its provisions would be fully implemented. Expert teams had shown that the package was practicable and would confer important proportionate benefits on both sides, and the Secretary-General remained strongly of that view, according to the spokesman. Acceptance in principle of the package was necessary so that Mr. Clark would be in a position to discuss its implementation during his visit.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata has expressed fears for tens of thousands of civilians deprived of humanitarian aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite assurances of access from all sides there. Mrs. Ogata said the UNHCR-led humanitarian aid effort in the country was keeping hundreds of thousands of people alive this winter, despite numerous obstructions by the warring parties. Only a combination of mild weather, persistence by aid workers and the determination of the almost three million people at risk had prevented a catastrophe. She warned, however, that the weather could worsen at any time.

Bosnia and Herzegovina needed some 47,000 metric tons of food aid last month, but received less than 20,000, according to the UNHCR. In some areas of central and eastern Bosnia, less than 20 per cent of requirements were met. The low delivery rate was a result of bureaucratic and military obstacles created by the warring sides, continued fighting, winter weather and deteriorating roads. Just two months ago, leaders of all three sides pledged that they would ensure humanitarian access to all in need.

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Around one third of the world's children under five years of age -- some 192 million in all -- are malnourished and underweight, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Nevertheless, there has been a worldwide decrease since 1975 in protein malnutrition, except in Africa where the number of malnourished children has increased due to population growth. Those

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observations are made in a report summarizing the global situation of malnutrition among children under five years of age, to be discussed by WHO's Executive Board at its current session in Geneva.

The report reviews the situation concerning iodine, vitamin A and iron, which are all vital to human health. It stresses the importance of breast-feeding, noting that infants who are artificially fed are at greater risk than infants who are breast-fed. A proper diet is more crucial in infancy than at any other stage because of the infant's high nutritional needs in relation to body weight, and the influence of early nutrition on future health and development. Nutritional well-being is a pre-condition for the development of societies, and Governments will be unable to accelerate long-term economic development until optimal child growth and development are ensured for the majority, the report concludes.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1566
21 January 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, concluding official visit to the Netherlands, attends working session of International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; appoints Theodore van Boven, a Dutch national, as Tribunal's Acting Registrar.

+ General Assembly encourages Member States to respond positively to Secretary-General's request for observers to monitor April elections in South Africa; urges parties there to adhere to democratic principles and to take part in elections.

+ Baltic States say Russian Foreign Minister's statement about keeping military forces in their territory challenges their sovereignty and conflicts with Russian Federation's international obligations.

+ Islamic shariah laws must evolve to meet women's needs, experts tell Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women; laws granting equality should be interpreted properly.

* * *

Concluding his stay in the Netherlands, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today visited the Permanent Court of Arbitration and attended a working session of the International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, according to a United Nations spokesman. Discussions there focused on the substantive work of the Tribunal, and on the administrative and budgetary aspects of its establishment. The Secretary-General appointed Theodore van Boven of the Netherlands as the Tribunal's Acting Registrar.

The spokesman confirmed that the Secretary-General had met with the Foreign Minister of Libya in Geneva last weekend. The Secretary-General had urged the Libyan Government to make a positive move towards the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. The Foreign Minister had reiterated his Government's position as expressed in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 28 December. In that letter, Libya called on him to prevail upon the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to settle the confrontation regarding the bombings of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

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For information media - not an official record

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The General Assembly today encouraged Member States to respond positively to the Secretary-General's request for observers to monitor the elections in South Africa next April. It also welcomed his intention to set up a special trust fund to finance the participation of additional observers from African and other developing countries and urged States to contribute generously to it. The Assembly took that action by adopting, without a vote, a resolution introduced by Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

The Assembly urged all parties in South Africa, including those which did not participate fully in the multi-party talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, to adhere to democratic principles, and to take part in the elections. It called on all parties to promote the full participation of all South Africans in the democratic process by exercising restraint and refraining from acts of violence and intimidation. The Assembly also called on the South African authorities to protect the rights of all South Africans to organize and participate in peaceful public manifestations and rallies, to run for election and to participate in the polls in all parts of the country, including the so-called "homelands", free of intimidation.

Also today, the Assembly extended its sympathy to the Government and people of the United States for the tragic loss of life and material damage resulting from the recent earthquake in California.

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The recent policy statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev regarding the possible maintainance of a military presence in the Baltic States conflicts with the Russian Federation's international obligations, according to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. On 18 January, Mr. Kozyrev said a Russian withdrawal could cause a "security vacuum" which might be filled by hostile forces. the three States said in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 19 January. They stressed that the Russian Federation was obliged by several United Nations, North Atlantic Cooperation Council and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) documents to withdraw its forces promptly, completely and unconditionally.

The Foreign Minister's statement was "aimed directly against the sovereignty of the Baltic States", the letter stated. It also undermined the "Partnership for Peace" plan accepted at the recent North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Brussels and the creation of a new European security structure, the letter stated. In that context, the Russian military presence in the Baltic States became an even more destabilizing factor in the region.

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The Islamic shariah laws must evolve with the times in order to suit the needs of modern women, experts of the Committee on the Elimination of

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* * *

Discrimination against Women said today as they heard Libya's response to their comments on its initial report. Stressing that the shariah laws granted full equality to women, the experts from Bangladesh, Egypt and Tunisia called on Muslim countries to interpret them properly so as not to derogate from women's rights. The shariah laws were not immutable and must be adapted within the context of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, they said.

Stressing the equality inherent in the shariah laws, the Libyan representative described the legal equality enjoyed by women in his country. There was no discrimination in the punishment of adultery whether committed by men or women. Libyan legislation favoured monogamy, with certain restrictions imposed on second marriages, and polygamy was the exception to the rule.

The Committee, which is currently holding its thirteenth session at Headquarters, is discussing the measures taken by 13 States parties to the 1979 Convention to ensure equal participation by women in political, economic and cultural life. States parties are required to submit an initial report within one year of accession to the Convention and periodic reports at least every four years.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1567
24 January 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, calls for immediate end to fighting in Afghanistan, citing civilian suffering, disruption of political process, and impact on regional security; welcomes Secretary-General's intention to dispatch special mission to country.

+ Secretary-General back in New York after visit to Europe last week; met with President of Georgia and with Foreign Minister of Afghanistan during Paris stopover.

+ General Assembly President, in Switzerland, launches Olympic Truce for upcoming Games in Norway; appeals for universal observance of Truce, citing war of "unimaginable cruelty" in Balkans.

+ Special Representative Caputo meets with Friends of Secretary-General on Haiti to assess situation in country; seek to develop proposals on sanctions in light of non-compliance with Governors Island Agreement.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, recommends six-month extension of UNIFIL mandate; says Force contributes to stability in southern Lebanon, despite being prevented from implementing its mandate.

+ WHO Executive Board recommends establishment of United Nations programme to provide global leadership in struggle against HIV/AIDS.

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The Security Council today called for an immediate end to the large-scale fighting in Afghanistan, which it said was creating great suffering among the civilian population and jeopardizing efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. In a statement read out by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council said the conflict was also disrupting efforts to establish a political process which could lead to a broad-based government, was producing a fresh wave of refugees, and detracted from efforts to foster regional security.

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The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to dispatch a United Nations special mission to Afghanistan to solicit the views of a broad spectrum of leaders on how best to promote rapprochement and reconstruction, as requested by General Assembly resolution 48/208. The Council expressed appreciation for the international humanitarian assistance provided to refugees and displaced persons, and encouraged countries to increase their assistance.

The Council also commended the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative and the United Nations agencies to alleviate suffering in Afghanistan, saying it attached great importance to their work. It also commended the efforts of the General Assembly, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and a number of concerned states to promote peace through political dialogue among the Afghan parties.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was back at Headquarters today after visiting France, Switzerland and The Netherlands last week. Before returning to New York, the Secretary-General stopped over in Paris on Friday and met with Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze. The meeting, which lasted 45 minutes, was attended by Georgian Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaidze.

The Secretary-General and Mr. Shevardnadze exchanged views on the Georgia-Abkhaz conflict, in light of the second round of talks held between the two sides in Geneva last week. They also discussed Georgia's recent request for a meeting of the Security Council to examine the possibility of sending a peace-keeping force to the region. On Saturday, the Secretary-General met with the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan.

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Continuing his European visit in Switzerland, General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) today launched the Olympic Truce for next month's Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Observance of the Truce, which calls for a universal halt to hostilities seven days before the start of the Olympic Games and ends on the seventh day after the close of the Games, was called for by the General Assembly last October.

In a ceremony at the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland, the President called for universal observance of the Truce, noting that a war of unimaginable cruelty was raging not far away in the Balkans. He also called for implementation of the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace", which was now the widely accepted blueprint for a system of collective security.

On Friday, Mr. Insanally paid a visit to Pope John Paul II at the Vatican, during which they reviewed matters of common interest, including the International Year of the Family, the International Year of Sport and Olympic Ideal, the Olympic Truce and regional conflicts.

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Special Representative Dante Caputo has met with the Friends of the Secretary-General on Haiti -- Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela -- to assess the situation in the country in light of the agreements reached at their meeting in Paris last month, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Since the target date for compliance by the Haitian military leadership with the Governors Island Agreement has elapsed, and given the violation of the New York pact by some of the illegitimately elected parliamentarians, the Friends have begun working together to identify concrete proposals in relation to sanctions for consideration by the Security Council, according to the spokesman. Mr. Caputo and the Friends of the Secretary-General will meet again on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months to 31 July, because of its contribution to stability and the safety of the population in southern Lebanon. The extension had been requested by the Lebanese Government recently. In a report dated 20 January, the Secretary-General noted that Israel still occupied parts of southern Lebanon and that UNIFIL continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate. Israel had said that it had no territorial claims in Lebanon and that a temporary "security zone" was needed to prevent attacks against it. For its part, the Lebanese Government was engaged in a process of national reconstruction and reconciliation, and regarded the Israeli occupation as the cause of hostilities in the area.

In the last six months, the situation in southern Lebanon remained tense and volatile, according to the Secretary-General. There had been an exceptionally heavy Israeli bombardment in late July, but the shelling had lessened from August onwards. UNIFIL had sought to limit the conflict and to protect civilians, despite being fired on itself many times. The Force also provided a wide range of humanitarian services in the area. He stressed the need for all concerned to respect its international and impartial status.

The Secretary-General called attention to the serious shortfall in funding for UNIFIL, noting that unpaid assessments now exceeded $200 million. He also expressed the hope that progress in the ongoing peace talks would permit a reduction in the Force's strength in six months.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the establishment of a co-sponsored United Nations programme on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). At a meeting in Geneva on Friday, the WHO Executive Board said the programme would provide global leadership and advocate greater political commitment in the fight against the disease.

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The programme will also provide policy and technical direction and ensure collaboration among United Nations organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations. To that end, it will bring together the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank and the WHO.

WHO estimates that since the pandemic began, more than 14 million adults and one million children have been infected with HIV. Less than one-fifth of those have yet gone on to develop AIDS, and the cumulative number of cases of the disease is expected to quadruple by the year 2000.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1568
25 January 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General establishes Trust Fund to finance participation by third world observers in South African elections next April; invites Member States to contribute generously.

+ Bosnian Prime Minister, in letter to Secretary-General, asks for air strikes against Serb positions around Sarajevo; says killing of six children in city by Serb shells on Saturday humiliates international community and mocks United Nations.

+ WFP issues emergency appeal for $77 million worth of food aid for Ethiopia, saying some 4.4 million people are in need; approves emergency operations for Eritrea and Angola.

+ WHO predicts that at least 30 million people will die from tuberculosis in 1990s, citing inadequate control programmes, population growth, and spread of HIV/AIDS.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has established a Trust Fund to Finance Third World Observers to the South African Elections scheduled to take place on 27 April. The Secretary-General, who proposed the creation of the Fund in his recent report on South Africa, invited all Member States to contribute generously to it.

In his report, which was approved by the Security Council in resolution 894 (1994), the Secretary-General said the total number of international observers for the elections, including those representing foreign non-governmental organizations and other groups, would probably exceed 5,000. The United Nations would provide some 1,800 of those observers; along with observers from the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union, the Commonwealth and individual States, they would form a core group of almost 3,000 observers.

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For information media--not an official record

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The Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haris Silajdzic, has asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to demand air strikes against "Serb aggressor posts" around Sarajevo. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 24 January, the Prime Minister said the killing of six children in the city by Serbian shells on Saturday humiliated the international community and mocked the dignity of the United Nations. He noted that the incident took place within a United Nations-designated "safe area" and only 200 metres away from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Headquarters in Sarajevo. It also came at a time when the UNPROFOR Commander for Bosnia and Herzegovina was being rotated.

The Bosnian Prime Minister charged that UNPROFOR was unable to protect innocent children in Sarajevo and asked that air strikes be authorized "in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions as well as with the conclusions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)".

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has issued an emergency appeal for Ethiopia, estimating that some 4.4 million people there will need food aid this year. Erratic rainfall, shortages of farm inputs and plant pests have significantly reduced the country's harvests, and could lead to widespread food shortages and even localized famine later in the year. The WFP appealed for a range of foodstuffs, including 150,000 metric tons of wheat, costing an estimated $77 million.

In a related development, the WFP warned that two thirds of Eritrea's population of 2.3 million people will also face severe food shortages this year. The country's food production has fallen sharply recently because of of crop failure and a shortage of pasture for livestock. To stave off widespread suffering in the coming months, the WFP has approved a $35 million emergency operation for the most vulnerable people. With hardly any food stocks in Eritrea, distribution in the next four or five months will have to be carried out on a "ship to mouth" basis, WFP said.

Meanwhile, the WFP has approved an emergency operation for 2.1 million people affected by war and drought in Angola. The operation, which will run from February to July, will deliver almost 170,000 metric tons of food at a cost of $85 million. The WFP noted that the figure of 2.1 million did not represent all Angolans needing food aid but those that the Programme realistically estimated it could reach.

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At least 30 million people will die from tuberculosis in the 1990s, and the annual death toll is expected to reach 3.5 million by the year 2000, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO declared tuberculosis a global emergency last April, saying aid agencies should spend more than $100 million a year -- seven times their current amount -- on treatment of the disease worldwide.

However, a report currently being discussed by the WHO Executive Board in Geneva says the disease is not being contained because of poor quality control programmes, population growth and other demographic changes, and the spread of HIV/AIDS. The report also warns of the growing threat of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, particularly in developing countries where effective treatment is prohibitively expensive.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1569
26 January 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in message to Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, says comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty would boost process of nuclear disarmament and international peace and security.

+ Interpol tells Committee on Rights of Child of need to improve cooperation with United Nations to prevent offences against children; seeks coordinated training courses at regional or national level.

+ IFAD President says Fund is imaginative and effective force in alleviating rural poverty and hunger; says IFAD innovations are essential to sustainable development.

+ Two-day meeting of eminent persons on population and development, jointly organized by United Nations University and UNFPA, opens in Tokyo; part of preparation for International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the Conference on Disarmament which began its 1994 session in Geneva yesterday, welcomed its emphasis on negotiations for a universal and verifiable comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty. Such a treaty would contribute effectively to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, to the process of nuclear disarmament, and to international peace and security, he said. It would also assist the 1995 review of the existing Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Secretary-General noted that the Conference would give priority to the question of arrangements to reassure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. "Admittedly, the best guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is the total elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth," he said. However, unless that goal was realized, it was important to develop effective security assurances as an essential element in a régime for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

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For information media--not an official record

The General Assembly's forty-eighth session had confirmed a trend towards cooperation among Members States in the vital area of security, arms limitation and disarmament, as exemplified by the growing number of resolutions adopted by consensus in this field, he continued. The resolution on the comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, sponsored by more than 157 Member States, was a milestone in the efforts of the international community to ban all nuclear tests in all environments for all time.

* * *

The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) wants greater cooperation with the United Nations to prevent offences committed against children and to assist child victims. Addressing the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva yesterday, Sabine Manke, Specialist Officer of the General Secretariat of Interpol, said that was one of the recommendations of a group of experts convened in 1991 by Interpol to study offences committed against children. There could also be greater cooperation in the areas of crime statistics and the training of police personnel to deal with child victims.

The Officer said Interpol's Standing Working Party on Offences against Minors had prepared a plan of action calling for the appointment of training coordinators from Interpol and the United Nations; the holding of a preparatory seminar on training with respect to children; and the organization of regional or national training courses. Members of the Committee welcomed the proposed plan of action and suggested further discussions on its implementation, taking into account the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

* * *

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has earned international recognition as an imaginative and effective force in alleviating rural poverty and hunger, according to IFAD President Faswi Al-Sultain. Addressing the opening session of IFAD's Governing Council meeting in Rome today, he said IFAD was striving to ensure that a higher percentage of its resources went to the poor and the hungry.

Mr. Al-Sultain said project innovations championed by IFAD were essential if sustainable development was to be achieved at the community level. The Fund had always sought to influence the activities of other development agencies so as to give greater attention to the needs of the poor, and would seek to mobilize their resources in support of its projects. He noted, however, that while poverty was increasingly recognized as the central development challenge, the means to combat it were not abundant.

* * *

A two-day meeting of eminent persons on population and development opened today at the United Nations University in Tokyo. Jointly organized by the University and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), it is being held in conjunction with preparations for the International Conference on Population

(more)

and Development to be held in Cairo in September this year. The Government of Japan is co-sponsoring the meeting.

Amongst those expected to attend are some 20 distinguished individuals from around the world who have been active in the fields of population, development and international cooperation. They include Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway; Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, former President of Mexico; Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan; Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the 1995 World Conference of Women; and Fred Sai, President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The topics of discussion include the key issues of the Cairo Conference: population, food and security; population and sustainable development; population and family planning activities; population and the status of women; and population distribution and migration.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1570
27 January 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Commission of Inquiry into conduct of UNPROFOR personnel in former Yugoslavia finds no widespread or systematic illegal activity; independent investigation reveals individual cases of impropriety and illegality, leading to reprimands and dismissals.

+ Secretary-General, addressing Palestinian Rights Committee, highlights importance of its contribution to implementation of Israel/PLO accord; to appoint senior official to coordinate work of United Nations agencies assisting Palestinian people.

+ Ten MICIVIH observers return to Haiti to resume human rights work, beginning in Port-au-Prince, 20 more observers to arrive in coming days.

+ European Union, in letter to Security Council, expresses support for efforts of Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia to bring about negotiated settlement of Bosnian conflict.

* * *

The Special Commission of Inquiry into allegations of misconduct against United Nations personnel in the former Yugoslavia found no evidence to confirm claims of widespread or systematic illegal activity, Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), said today. However, the Commission's "independent and thorough" investigation had established some individual cases of impropriety and illegality, and a number of United Nations personnel had been reprimanded, repatriated or dismissed.

The Special Commission concluded that there had been some black-market trading in cigarettes, alcohol and coffee from the end of 1992 until early 1993, but found no evidence of organized, large-scale trafficking, according to Mr. Akashi. There was no basis for allegations that international staff from UNPROFOR were involved in illegal drug activity, although two local employees were dismissed for possession of illicit substances. Similarly,

(more)

For information media--not an official record

accusations that United Nations personnel smuggled people out of Sarajevo for financial gain, or were involved in illegal prostitution activities, were found to be baseless.

The Special Representative noted that UNPROFOR had taken steps to identify and halt illegal and improper activities before the Commission had begun its investigation. He stressed that the vast majority of UNPROFOR personnel were dedicated to their mission and were performing to a very high standard in difficult conditions, and that he was committed to upholding the integrity of the Force.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in an address today to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, highlighted the value of the Committee's contribution to the implementation of the self-government accord signed last year by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Speaking at the opening of the Committee's 1994 session, the Secretary-General also stressed its important role in mobilizing international support and assistance for the Palestinian people.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that he had decided to appoint a senior official, resident in the Middle East, to oversee the coordination of the work of the United Nations agencies assisting the Palestinian people. He said he had been asked by the General Assembly to take that action, and that such coordination was essential.

* * *

Ten observers belonging to the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations returned yesterday to Port-au-Prince, and will resume their work to ensure respect for human rights, a United Nations spokesman said today. Twenty additional observers will arrive in the next few days.

MICIVIH's work will be limited initially to the Haitian capital, the spokesman noted. All the competent authorities have been informed of the movement of personnel.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Secretary-General on the Question of Haiti met yesterday with Special Envoy Dante Caputo to begin work on a proposal relating to sanctions in light of the non-compliance with the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact. The Friends -- Canada, France, Venezuela and the United States -- will eventually submit their proposal to the Security Council.

* * *

The European Union supports the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to bring about a negotiated peaceful settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a

letter to the Security Council, dated 25 January, signed by the Permanent Representatives of France, Spain and the United Kingdom to the United Nations. They said that the European Union believed that a solution accepted by all concerned must be reached as soon as possible in order to spare the civilian population more suffering.

The letter expressed the hope that the Co-Chairmen, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, would continue to offer their valuable services in their endeavours to implement their mandate.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1571
28 January 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides unanimously to extend UNIFIL mandate for six months to 31 July; reiterates support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence; says States should not threaten or use force against other States.

+ Secretary-General, receiving Permanent Representative of Democratic People's Republic of Korea yesterday, says he has been closely following developments concerning Korean peninsula; hopes DPRK and Republic of Korea will resume negotiations.

+ British relief worker with UNHCR killed, two wounded, by armed gang in Bosnia and Herzegovina; victim is eleventh UNHCR worker killed in former Yugoslavia.

+ WHO Executive Board concludes ninety-third session in Geneva, having recommended establishment of joint United Nations AIDS programme.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Summit for Social Development to begin first substantive session at Headquarters on Monday.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months to 31 July. It took that action, responding to a request by the Lebanese Government and to the Secretary-General's recent report on UNIFIL, by unanimously adopting resolution 895 (1994).

In his report, the Secretary-General said UNIFIL contributed to stability and the safety of the population in the south of Lebanon. However, Israel still occupied parts of southern Lebanon and the Force continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate. Israel had said that it had no territorial claims in Lebanon and that a temporary "security zone" was needed to prevent attacks against it.

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For information media—not an official record

In a statement read out by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), after the adoption of today's resolution, the Security Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. It asserted that any State should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other State.

The Council also stressed the urgent need for the implementation of resolution 425 (1978), which approved the Force's terms of references and general guidelines, in all its aspects. It reiterated its full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country. The Council also commended the Government for its efforts to extend its authority in the south of Lebanon in full coordination with UNIFIL. It went on to express concern about the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and regret at the loss of civilian life, and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday received the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who expressed his Government's appreciation for the Secretary-General's recent visit to Pyongyang, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General said that since his visit, he had continued to closely follow developments concerning the Korean peninsula, including the discussions between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) respectively.

The Secretary-General expressed the hope that the outcome of those discussions would be positive and constructive, the spokesman said. He also hoped that negotiations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea would resume.

* * *

A British relief worker was killed and two others were wounded yesterday, when a gang of armed men hijacked their vehicle in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The victims were members of a British team of convoy drivers of the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) who had been assigned to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the former Yugoslavia. The dead man, who was identified as Paul Goodall, joined the convoy team last November.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata condemned the "senseless, cold-blooded killing" and offered her condolences to the family of the murdered aid worker. Mr. Goodall was the eleventh person killed while working with the UNHCR humanitarian relief operation in the former Yugoslavia. According to a report issued today, UNHCR is discussing the incident with the Bosnian Government.

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The Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) today concluded its ninety-third session, during which it reviewed WHO programmes and working methods and adopted, by consensus, a series of resolutions on major health issues, including tuberculosis, infant nutrition and other issues. In what several of its members described as an historic event, the Board also passed a resolution recommending the establishment of a joint United Nations Programme on AIDS. Those resolutions, together with other recommendations of the Board, will be submitted to the forty-seventh World Health Assembly in May.

The Executive Board's meeting in Geneva was being conducted against a background of "global economic and political turbulence", WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima said in his opening speech. That, combined with ethnic, religious and territorial conflicts, made the WHO's mission to improve the health of humanity more difficult, he stressed.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development will hold the first of three substantive sessions at Headquarters from 31 January to 11 February. The Committee will analyse core issues and prospective policy measures for the Summit, which will be convened in March 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark. It will also discuss the status of preparations for the Summit; draft provisional rules of procedure of the Summit; and arrangements for its second session.

The General Assembly called for the convening of the Summit and established the Preparatory Committee in resolution 47/92. Its objectives include expressing a world-wide commitment to putting the needs of people at the centre of development and international cooperation, and stimulating international cooperation in the implementation of social policies. The Summit should "address in creative ways the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands, and the imperatives of sustainable development", the Assembly said.

Coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Summit will be preceded by a meeting of personal representatives of Heads of State or Government or other high-level officials in order to confront the issues of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1572
31 January 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council votes unanimously to continue UNOMIG mandate until 7 March at existing authorized strength; ready to consider further strengthening of Georgia mission, and notes options for possible peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia.

+ Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, says he would not hesitate to initiate use of close air support if UNPROFOR were attacked while implementing plans to rotate peace-keepers in Srebrenica and Zepa and to open Tuzla airport.

+ Co-Chairman of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia says "it is hard to be optimistic" about prospects for peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina; tells Security Council that parties differ over small percentage of territory.

+ In report on ONUMOZ, Secretary-General says serious problems remain in implementation of Mozambican peace agreement; calls for establishment of police contingent in ONUMOZ.

+ Challenge for 1995 World Social Development Summit is to allay fears of social disorder, Secretary-General tells Preparatory Committee; says solidarity is vital if current problems are to be tackled.

+ UNOSOM II Force Commander orders investigation of clash in Somalia today between Somali gunmen and United States Marines; eight Somalis killed, 12 injured; no American casualties.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to continue the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 7 March within the numbers authorized late last year. However, the Council declared its readiness, within that period, to consider any recommendation from the Secretary-General to further increase the strength of the Mission to limits specified earlier, and noted the options described in his recent report for the possible establishment of a peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia.

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This information media not an official record

In unanimously adopting resolution 896 (1993), the Security Council welcomed the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the assistance of the Russian Government as facilitator, to carry forward the peace process. The Council urged the parties to resume negotiations as soon as possible and to demonstrate stronger willingness to achieve a comprehensive political settlement.

It stressed that substantive progress must be made immediately on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, if the negotiations were to succeed and further conflict were to be avoided. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report to any progress made at upcoming negotiations in February between the parties, with special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force.

The Council recognized the grave situation in Georgia created by the presence of some 300,000 persons displaced from Abkhazia and the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return home without preconditions and in secure conditions. It also urged the parties to ensure the security of UNOMIG personnel and welcomed the readiness of the Russian Federation to assist them in that regard.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said he would not hesitate to initiate the use of close air support if the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were attacked while implementing plans to rotate peace-keepers in Srebrenica and Zepa and to open Tuzla airport. In a letter to the Security Council dated 28 January (S/1994/94), the Secretary-General said he had delegated authority to approve a request for air support to his Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi.

United Nations planning envisaged three scenarios, he said. In the first, troops could be rotated and the airport opened with the consent of the parties. In the second, if the parties did consent, but were judged unlikely to use military force, existing UNPROFOR military assets would be used with the support, if necessary, of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power. In the third scenario, if the parties resorted to military force, UNPROFOR would use available assets, reinforced by Member States, and NATO air power if necessary.

The Secretary-General distinguished between close air support involving the use of air power for self-defence, and air strikes for pre-emptive or punitive purposes. NATO forces were not authorized to launch the latter types of air strikes without a decision of the North Atlantic Council. The Secretary-General said he hoped that the troops could be rotated and the airport opened by agreement. However, he noted that UNPROFOR's mandate regarding "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina had been adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, and the Force did not have to seek the consent of the parties for operations falling within its mandate. He said

(more)

that the Bosnian parties were trying to to take advantage of UNPROFOR's presence and were increasingly questioning its impartiality. The time had come to reflect on its role, and he would soon undertake a comprehensive review of the its functions and responsibilities.

* * *

Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, said today it was hard to be optimistic about the prospects for an agreement to end the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He told the Security Council that failure to sign a peace agreement could mean more war, more hatred and more ethnic cleansing. However, the Chairmen worked on the basis of the belief that all three parties wanted a peace agreement and they would therefore continue efforts to get the parties to overcome the remaining hurdles to a peace agreement.

In his briefing to the Council, the Co-Chairman noted that the bulk of an agreement, including provisions covering military matters, human rights and transit, had already been worked out in meetings with the parties. However, success had not been achieved because of disagreement over a relatively small percentage of territory in Eastern, Western and Central Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats had accepted a proposal whereby an arbitration commission would make recommendations on the allocation of territory, but the Bosnian Presidency had said that it would not accept such a procedure unless the other parties withdrew their forces from the towns concerned.

In order to promote the peace process, certain confidence-building measures -- such as the establishment of hot-lines and the exchange of representatives -- had been initiated, Mr. Stoltenberg continued. A working group had been convened to consider other confidence building measures and had met in Sarajevo on 26 January. Based on its report, discussions with the three parties would resume in Geneva on 10 February.

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While significant progress has been made in Mozambique, several serious problems relating to the implementation of the general peace agreement still remain, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), dated 28 January (S/1994/89), he warned that the international community would be increasingly reluctant to continue to support the peace process in the event of further delays. A major challenge was posed, he said, by the demobilization of the 80,000 troops belonging to the Government forces and those of the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO). The demobilized soldiers needed viable economic opportunities, and the troops joining the new army had to be incorporated into a well functioning institution.

The Secretary-General said additional resources were needed to help RENAMO transform itself into a political party. Failure to resolve the current problems in that respect could jeopardize the peace process. A United Nations-administered trust fund for a projected $10 million had been established and so far $7.5 million had been made available, but at least

$15 million was needed. He said he was exploring the possibility of setting up a more flexible funding mechanism, to cover RENAMO's further requirements.

In an addendum to the report, also dated 28 January (S/1994/89/Add.1), Mr. Boutros-Ghali recommended that the Security Council authorize the establishment of a United Nations police component as an integral part of ONUMOZ. As the peace process in Mozambique moved forward, he said, the focus should be shifted from monitoring the cease-fire to overseeing police activities. The presence of a United Nations police element could be very useful, particularly when the electoral campaign got underway, and both the Government and RENAMO had agreed to the general concept.

* * *

Social stress was a feature of the modern world, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, as it began its first substantive session at Headquarters this morning. The challenge of the 1995 Summit was to allay fears of social disorder and to help tackle the growing social problems of persistent unemployment, poverty and inadequate expenditures on health, education and basic services.

The moral case for solidarity, for tolerance and for inclusiveness must be made, he said. Social development, the reduction of poverty, greater social integration and the creation of real jobs could only be achieved if those involved participated actively in the process. Social development required the active involvement of the State, of private organizations, such as unions and non-governmental organizations, and of all individuals as citizens and entrepreneurs.

The Secretary-General said the World Summit for Social Development would bring together Heads of State and of Government and would provide a unique opportunity for them to focus their attention on a number of key strategic objectives. The Social Summit, he pointed out, was part of a cycle of conferences which were shaping the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

* * *

The Force Commander of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) has ordered an investigation of an incident earlier today in which gunfire was exchanged between Somali gunmen and United States Marines escorting staff of the United States Liaison Office at a location known as K-4. According to a United Nations spokesman, eight Somalis were killed and 12 injured. There were no American casualties.

The office of Special Representative Jonathan Howe issued a statement deeply regretting the injury and loss of life resulting from the incident, and expressing UNOSOM II's condolences to the bereaved families. "UNOSOM sincerely hopes," the statement said, "that in the meantime the process of national reconciliation to establish peace will continue in the greater interests of the Somali people."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1573
1 February 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General proposes appointment of Ambassador Ayala Lasso of Ecuador as High Commissioner for Human Rights, with effect from 28 February; also announces various senior appointments in Secretariat, and new Force Commander for UNPROFOR.

+ Addressing press conference at Headquarters, Secretary-General says he would support use of force in Bosnia and Herzegovina; outlines current situation in Somalia, Cyprus and Western Sahara, among other issues.

+ Comprehensive new recommendations for national and global statistics for System of National Accounts issued jointly today by United Nations and four other international organizations.

+ Secretary-General of Fourth World Conference on Women calls for creation of human rights unit within Division on Advancement of Women, to link work of Centre for Human Rights and Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has announced that he proposes to appoint José Ayala Lasso, Ecuador's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, as High Commissioner for Human Rights, for a term of four years, beginning 28 February. The appointment, which can be extended by a further four years, is subject to General Assembly approval.

The Assembly decided last December to create the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights, following a recommendation emerging from the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna last June. The Commissioner was to be "a person of high moral standing and personal integrity", with expertise in the field of human rights, and with the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, effective performance of the duties involved.

The Secretary-General also announced a number of appointments in the top echelon of the Secretariat. These include the appointment of Ambassador Hans

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Corell of Sweden as Legal Counsel. He will be taking over from Carl-August Fleischhauer, who has been appointed a Judge of the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Ambassador Lansana Kouyate of Guinea is being appointed Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs, under Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding. James Jonah, who has also been serving as Under-Secretary-General in the Department, is leaving the Organization and his post will be discontinued.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also announced that he had decided to appoint General Guillaume de Sauville de Lapresle as Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force, replacing General Jean Cot.

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Addressing a press conference at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General expressed himself in favour of the use force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying it would give credibility to the Security Council resolutions to that effect. He said too that he personally favoured the use of air support to achieve the Council's goals with respect to Tuzla and Srebrenica. He had delegated the authority to decide on such use to his Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi, and that move had drawn a positive response from all the Security Council members. On the other hand, the use of air power for pre-emptive or punitive purposes still required further authorization from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

With respect to Somalia, he said plans were being made for the future functioning of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) based on the expectation that troop strength would not exceed 16,000 after March. Choices had to be tailored accordingly, and priority would be given to protection of non-governmental organizations and centres for distribution of humanitarian aid, and to help bring about reconciliation between the country's various factions.

On the question of Cyprus, the Secretary-General said he was optimistic about the future of negotiations. There had been a breakthrough, in the sense that there was now a political will on both sides to adopt the measures he had proposed to build the confidence between their communities.

On Western Sahara, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the implementation of the planned referendum there would need the cooperation of the two protagonists, Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO). He would be informing the Security Council that disagreement still existed between the two sides and it would be up to the Council to decide whether to persist with the United Nations current efforts there.

* * *

So that statistics can be used more effectively in national and global economic policy-making, comprehensive new recommendations for the System of

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Nations Accounts (SNA) were issued today in a joint publication by the United Nations, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank. The System was prepared under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission and was strongly endorsed by the Economic and Social Council last summer.

In addition to the intensive and unprecedented collaboration of the five sponsoring organizations, the System of National Accounts 1993 draws on the technical inputs and expertise of almost 200 experts worldwide in a variety of statistical and economic fields. Among the main features are its applicability to all countries, developed and developing, its flexibility and its harmonization with statistical concepts and standards elaborated by other international organizations. The 1993 SNA thus addresses more effectively major issues in the economic and social fields, among them sustainable development; transition from centrally-planned to market economies; poverty; inequalities in women's employment and remuneration; and informal production.

* * *

A human rights unit should be created within the United Nations Division on the Advancement of Women, to link the work of the Centre for Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women told Committee members this morning.

Ms. Mongella was responding to concerns expressed by experts of the 23-member body, which monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. They stated that inadequate resources had hampered their work and stressed that a link between the Centre for Human Rights and the Committee would help to mainstream women's issues in the human rights field. Ms. Mongella said that all institutions serving women, in the United Nations system as well as in government ministries, faced inadequate servicing. The Division was also underfunded, and she hoped that the World Conference would provide an opportunity to raise the question of the lack of resources for women's issues.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1574
2 February 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General reports to Security Council that Angolan Government and UNITA have made progress in Lusaka peace talks, but not enough to establish cease-fire or allow for expansion of UNAVEM II's role.

+ Secretary-General meets with delegation from United Somali Party, from Sol and Sanag regions of Somalia; they call for continued international support, and express appreciation for United Nations role.

+ Japan to contribute $10 million for UNOSOM II's training programme for Somali police and then for general operation of its police project.

+ In letter to Security Council, Secretary-General says between 3,000 and 5,000 Croatian soldiers are currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reflecting recent increase in support for Bosnian Croat forces by Croatian Army.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia tells Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women that it has no part in conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and protests imposition of sanctions.

* * *

The Government of Angola and the opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had shown, in their ongoing talks in Lusaka, the will to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 29 January, on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) (S/1994/100), he said that in view of the progress made, the Council should maintain its present stance, with sanctions against UNITA threatened but not yet imposed. Should the circumstances change, he would recommend additional measures or a review of those in effect.

However, Mr. Boutros-Ghali continued, the peace talks had not yet reached the point where an effective cease-fire could be established as a basis for expanding the UN's current operation in Angola. But he was continuing with the necessary preparations and contingency planning so that the Organization

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could make an appropriate contribution as soon as a comprehensive settlement was achieved.

The Secretary-General urged the Government and UNITA to respect the commitments they had already entered into, to exercise maxiumum restraint and to put an immediate end to all military operations. He also appealed to them to provide the necessary security for the efficient distribution of humanitarian aid to the people of Angola.

* * *

Japan has announced that it will be contributing $10 million for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The annoucement was made today during the inaugural meeting in Nairobi of the Somali Aid Coordination Body (SACB). The money is to be used first to train Somali police, and then utilized for the general operation of the police project in Somalia.

According to a United Nations spokesman, SACB's Standing Committee today considered issues associated with a regional strategy, including donor coordination and work with Somali institutions. The European Union's envoy to Somalia was elected Chairman of the Group.

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Yesterday evening Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali received a delegation from the United Somali Party, a signatory of the Addis Ababa Agreement of 1993 from the Sol and Sanag regions of Somalia (north-east) and a member of the group of twelve, a coalition of factions cooperating with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). According to a United Nations spokesman, the meeting took place at the delegation's request.

Ahmed Mohamed Adan, head of the delegation, and his colleagues emphasized the strong commitment of their party to the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia. They also stressed the importance of the international community staying the course in Somalia and firmly supported the United Nations presence and role in that country.

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In a letter to the Security Council, described today by a United Nations spokesman, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali quoted reports from Zagreb that between 3,000 and 5,000 personnel from the regular Croatian Army are currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He wrote that while the Croation Army had directly supported the Bosnian Croat forces for some time with manpower, equipment and weapons, there appeared to have been an increase in the number of Croatian soldiers present in the country.

The Foreign Minister of Croatia, Mate Granic, wrote recently to the Security Council that there were no more than 2,000 Croatian citizens fighting

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as volunteers in Bosnia. All of those, he said, had direct family ties to people in Bosnia and some were originally from there. He denied that there was any Croatian Army deployment there.

* * *

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) today told the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that it was not a party to any conflict and had no territorial claim to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federal Republic's report was presented to the Committee, which monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in response to an exceptional Committee request for information on the situation of women in the former Yugoslavia.

The representative of the Federal Republic criticized the imposition of Security Council sanctions on her country, saying they had caused great suffering for vulnerable groups such as women and children. She also told the Committee that her Government condemned the abuse and rape of women and children in the strongest terms and had said that those responsible, whoever they were, should be punished. She said not a single soldier of the army of Yugoslavia remained in Bosnia after 19 May 1992 and since that time, there had only been ethnic Serbian soldiers from Bosnia in that territory.

The expert from Spain categorically rejected the representative of Yugoslavia's contention that her Government had nothing to do with events taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Responding in general to the report, the Committee experts expressed sympathy with the plight of all women in the former Yugoslavia who had suffered abuse, and regretted the impact on women and children of the Security Council sanctions. Several experts called on the women there to band together to demand an end to the violence, and to educate the men so that they would not use rape and violence against women as weapons of war.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Inaugural meeting of Somali Aid Coordination Body, meeting in Nairobi this week, agrees to measures to better coordinate international rehabilitation efforts in Somalia.

+ Admiral Jonathan Howe, Special Representative and Chief of UNOSOM II, might be leaving that position; Ambassador Lansana Kouyate, currently his Deputy, would serve in his stead until replacement is found.

+ FAO, in annual report, warns of growing water shortage and escalating competition and conflict over water usage; says scarcity and misuse of freshwater pose serious threat to sustainable development.

+ Countering press reports, Special Representative issues statement saying UNPROFOR has no conclusive evidence that Yugoslav Army personnel have been crossing border into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The inaugural meeting of the Somali Aid Coordination Body (SACB), which met in Nairobi on Tuesday and Wednesday, agreed to a number of measures to bring about closer coordination of international rehabilitation efforts in Somalia. Formed in response to the Declaration of the United Nations Fourth Humanitarian Conference on Somalia, held in Addis Ababa late last year, the group is also mandated to identify means of involving Somalis and their organizations in its efforts. The membership includes major bilateral and multilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental groups. Regional organizations will also be participating.

The SACB endorsed the Plan of Action, produced after the Addis Ababa meeting, reconfirming that international rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance will be provided to those areas of Somalia which are able to achieve sufficient levels of peace and security to allow long-term donor involvement. The participants discussed plans for missions by donors to those regions, and agreed to plan for emergency needs that might arise. They also agreed that the United Nations Development Office, currently housed within the

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United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) should be transferred to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

* * *

Admiral Jonathan Howe, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), might soon be leaving that position. A United Nations spokesman said at Headquarters today that in that event, until a replacement was found for Admiral Howe, Ambassador Lansana Kouyate of Guinea would serve as Acting Special Representative in Somalia.

Mr. Kouyate has been the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Somalia since last year, and in March 1993 he chaired the Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced on Tuesday he was appointing him Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs.

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Warning of intensified competition and potential conflict over the use of water, the annual report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) yesterday labelled freshwater "an increasingly scarce and valuable resource". The State of Food and Agriculture 1993 said the growing shortage of water and misuse of freshwater posed serious threat to sustainable development, adding that competition among agriculture, industry and cities for limited water supplies was already constraining development efforts in many countries.

Over the next 30 years, the report predicted, 80 per cent of the additional food needed to feed the world would have to come from irrigated agriculture, just as cities and industries demanded more of the increasingly scarce supplies. However, FAO noted that higher water prices should encourage farmers to use water more efficiently, while promoting water-saving technologies. Today, despite "huge investments and subsidies", as much as 60 per cent of the water diverted or pumped for irrigation was wasted. Several countries were trying to cut wastage through administrative reform policies and investment in irrigation management, but the report recommended that they also establish a structure of pricing incentives, restrictions and penalties to encourage greater efficiency in water use.

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Reacting to press reports of increasing numbers of Yugoslav Army soldiers being sighted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and quotes to that effect from a member of the Norwegian Battalion of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), a statement was issued today by a spokesman for Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the former Yugoslavia. The statement said that "the remark made by Lieutenant Jantora Strandus -- who is serving with UNPROFOR's Norgwegian medical unit in Bosnia and Herzegovina -- does not represent in any way the position of UNPROFOR. The fact of the matter is that UNPROFOR has no conclusive evidence that the Yugoslav Army has been crossing the border into Bosnia-Herzegovina."

In a separate development, the Croatian Government responded to a report by UNPROFOR that an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 personnel of its regular army were currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretary-General had conveyed that information in a letter to the Security Council dated 2 February (S/1994/109). In a letter to the Council, also dated 2 February (S/1994/110), the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations said that his Government did not deny that there were regular Croatian Army troops in the border area between the Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said they were stationed there in accordance with a Joint Agreement signed by the two countries in July 1992, and said that to reposition those troops would seriously undermine Croatia's territorial integrity and security. His Government, he continued, was concerned about the welfare of ethnic Croat citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, given that the Council could not protect them, had no moral right to prevent Croatian volunteers from helping them.

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